



HEADLINE DC

AUGUST 15, 2011

HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N:** Both the Senate and House are now in recess (with only pro forma sessions ongoing). They will resume legislative business on September 6th and 7th, respectively.
- **ACA Now 1-1 in Appellate Decisions:** An August 12 split decision by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals (Atlanta), struck down the ACA's individual mandate. For more go to <http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/46MP2V/8AD4XT/554FC/6PI9VV/WS337/1G/h>. On July 26, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to hear a similar suit following the opposite ruling by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals (Ohio). Scheduled to meet the first Monday in October, the earliest it could hear the case is 2012, should it choose to do so.
- **Debt Super Committee Named:** The 12 Senators and Representatives chosen to find ways to reduce the nation's debt by Thanksgiving are: Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Max Baucus (D-MT), John Kerry (D-MA), Rob Portman (R-OH), John Kyl (R-AZ), and Pat Toomey (R-PA); and Representatives Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Dave Camp (R-I) and Fred Upton (R-MI).

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Affordable Insurance Exchanges:** On August 12, 2011, HHS awarded \$185 million to help states continue to establish Affordable Insurance Exchanges to enable individuals and small businesses buy health insurance. HHS also proposed new rules to streamline consumers' ability to use the Exchanges not only to buy insurance, but also to receive premium tax credits, or enroll in Medicaid or CHIP. Go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110812a3bb2>
- **HHS Expands Health Care Access:** On August 9, HHS awarded \$28.8 million in ACA funds to 67 community health center programs to establish new health service delivery sites to care for an additional 286,000 patients. For more: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110809a.html>
- **Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demo:** A Medicaid demonstration solicitation has been issued to give states flexibility and resources to enable private IMDs to provide care for patients with psychiatric emergencies rather than in more expensive and less appropriate settings (e.g., ERs). For more: <http://www.cms.gov/DemonstrProjectsEvalRepts/MDP/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=3&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS1249074&intNumPerPage=10>

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **Health Affairs/Robert Wood Johnson:** *Extra Federal Medicaid Support Ends* looks at the impact on states of the 2009-11 increase in federal Medicaid dollars and how its end will affect federal Medicaid percentages in FY 2012. Go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/65908.pdf>
- **Commonwealth Fund:** *Assessing/Addressing Legal Barriers to the Clinical Integration of CHCs and other Community Providers* discusses the legal framework governing collaborations between health centers and affiliates. Go to: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2011/Jul/1525_Rosenbaum_assessing_barriers_clinical_integration_CHCs.pdf
- **Economic Roundtable:** *Dividends of a Hand Up* explains ways that enrolling single adults with disabilities on SSI saves counties dollars and stimulates local economies. Go to: <http://www.economicrt.org>

ETCETERA

- **Mark Your Calendars:** NACBDD Fall Board Meeting scheduled for October 24-25, 2011, Albany, NY.